

## A.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story below. Then, answer each question about the story by circling the letter of the best answer.

Charlotte decided to enter a race for beginning runners. For months, Charlotte ran every day to improve her pace and to increase her distance.

Charlotte felt prepared as she crouched at the starting line. When she heard the signal, she ran as fast and as hard as she could.

Charlotte grinned as she ran across the finish line. Although she hadn't won the race, she knew that she had done her best.

- How did Charlotte get ready for the race?
  - She read a lot of books about running.
  - She talked to many friends who were runners.
  - She ran every day.
  - She got a lot of rest.
- Why did Charlotte run every day?
  - to win a blue ribbon at the race
  - to improve her pace and increase her distance
  - to lose weight
  - to get to school on time
- Which happened first?
  - Charlotte crouched at the starting line.
  - Charlotte heard the signal.
  - Charlotte decided to enter a race.
  - Charlotte crossed the finish line.
- The word **crouch** means
  - to have one foot in front of the other.
  - to grumble.
  - a piece of furniture.
  - to stoop down with bent knees.
- Why did Charlotte grin when she crossed the finish line?
  - She knew she had done her best.
  - She knew she had won the race.
  - Someone had told her a funny joke.
  - She had taken a short cut.

E9

## B.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story below. Then, answer each question about the story by circling the letter of the best answer.

Nick grabbed the basketball and started dribbling to the opposite end of the court. His team needed two points, and it was up to Nick to score them.

As Nick approached the basket, he heard the thundering cheers of the crowd. Nick had to make this shot because everyone was depending on him. He took a deep breath to steady himself. Then, Nick took a shot. The ball went into the basket.

- What happened first?
  - Nick took a deep breath.
  - Nick dribbled to the opposite end of the court.
  - Nick grabbed the basketball.
  - Nick approached the basket.
- What did the crowd sound like?
  - angry bears
  - thunder
  - a hail storm
  - buzzing bees
- Why did Nick feel that he had to make this shot?
  - His parents would be disappointed if he didn't.
  - Everyone was depending on him.
  - This was the last time he would ever play basketball.
  - He would be taken off the team if he didn't.
- To **approach** means
  - to try something.
  - to leave.
  - to discover.
  - to come near.
- The main idea of this story is
  - Nick scored the points that his team needed.
  - Nick heard the fans cheering.
  - Nick hesitated by taking a deep breath.
  - Nick had never scored in a basketball game before.

E9

Reading Comprehension

## A.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story below. Then, answer each question about the story by circling the letter of the best answer.

Meg had intended to finish her math project tonight, but her work was interrupted by a phone call. Meg's friend Sushi was calling to invite Meg to a play. The play would begin at eight o'clock.

Meg glanced at her watch. She knew she could not complete her project before the play began. Meg decided not to go with Sushi. Missing the play was disappointing. Yet finishing her project on time was satisfying for Meg.

1. What kind of project was Meg working on?
  - a. science
  - b. math
  - c. history
  - d. geography
2. Why was Meg's work interrupted?
  - a. She went to a play.
  - b. Her watch stopped.
  - c. She received a phone call.
  - d. It was time to eat dinner.
3. Why did Meg decide not to go with Sushi?
  - a. Meg had already accepted an invitation from another friend.
  - b. Meg knew she could not complete her project before the play began.
  - c. Meg's mother told Meg that she could not go to the play.
  - d. Meg had heard that the play was not good.
4. The word **intend** means
  - a. to announce.
  - b. to invite.
  - c. to finish.
  - d. to mean to.
5. The main idea of this story is
  - a. Meg was having difficulty learning math.
  - b. Meg did not want to go to the play with Sushi.
  - c. Meg did her work instead of going to the play.
  - d. Meg wished that she didn't have a telephone.

E10

## B.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story below. Then, answer each question about the story by circling the letter of the best answer.

The Cougars had a reputation for working well together as a football team. But, in this game, the team was not performing well. They fumbled the ball time after time because they were so tense. The players argued among themselves. They even argued with their coach.

Going into the last quarter, they needed twelve points to win. The team looked discouraged. They did not have a winning attitude.

1. What was the team's reputation?
  - a. The players argued among themselves.
  - b. The players worked well together.
  - c. The team did not have a winning attitude.
  - d. The players were clumsy.
2. Why did the Cougars fumble the ball so many times?
  - a. The players were angry with their coach.
  - b. The players would rather have been playing baseball.
  - c. The players did not know how to play football.
  - d. The players were tense.
3. When did the team look discouraged?
  - a. at the beginning of the last quarter
  - b. when they argued among themselves
  - c. when they fumbled the ball
  - d. when they argued with their coach
4. In this story, the word **tense** means
  - a. relaxed.
  - b. furious.
  - c. nervous.
  - d. cautious.
5. The main idea of this story is
  - a. the players argued with their coach.
  - b. the Cougars' reputation was strengthened by this game.
  - c. the Cougars' reputation was weakened by this game.
  - d. the Cougars scored fourteen points to win the game.

E10

**A.**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story below. Then, answer each question about the story by circling the letter of the best answer.

Last May, Greg Kramer rode a bike for the first time in five years. This was no ordinary bike ride for Greg. His legs are paralysed.

Greg pedaled with the help of a unique bike and a computer programmed to tell his leg muscles to move. This feat was the result of a program designed by Jerrold Petrofsky, Roger Glaser, and Chandler Phillips. The trio's ultimate goal is to help paralysis victims walk again, using computerized leg braces!

1. Why hasn't Greg Kramer ridden a bike in five years?
  - a. He hasn't had a bike.
  - b. He never learned how to ride a bike.
  - c. His legs are paralysed.
  - d. He's been busy with his computer.
2. How did a computer help Greg?
  - a. It helped him to pedal faster.
  - b. It helped him by telling his leg muscles to move.
  - c. It helped him to solve a design problem.
  - d. It helped him to walk again.
3. What happened first?
  - a. Greg's legs became paralysed.
  - b. Greg was able to ride a bike again.
  - c. Three men designed a computer program to help paralysis victims pedal bikes again.
  - d. Three men designed a computer program to help paralysis victims walk again.
4. The word **feat** means
  - a. something to stand on.
  - b. a festival.
  - c. a mistake.
  - d. an achievement.
5. The best title for this story would be
  - a. New Computer Allows Bike Riders to Pedal Faster
  - b. Boy Designs Special Computerized Bike
  - c. Paralysis Victim Rides Bike with Help of Computer
  - d. Trio Achieves Goal to Help Paralysis Victims Walk

E11

**B.**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story below. Then, answer each question about the story by circling the letter of the best answer.

Pluto was discovered in 1930. Since then it has mystified people. It's easy to understand why, since the planet is so tiny and remote. Even with a high-power telescope, Pluto looks no more distinct than a star.

For years people thought that Pluto was rocky and Earthlike. But recently astronomers have learned that Pluto's surface is mostly frozen gas. So now we know that Pluto is small, far, and full of ice!

1. Why is it easy to understand that Pluto mystifies people?
  - a. No one has studied the planet since 1930.
  - b. The planet is too cold to explore.
  - c. The planet is so tiny and remote.
  - d. The planet has just been discovered.
2. Why have people stopped believing that Pluto is Earthlike?
  - a. Pluto is too small to be like Earth.
  - b. Astronomers have learned that Pluto is mostly frozen gas.
  - c. Pluto is too rocky to be like Earth.
  - d. Pluto is a star and Earth is a planet.
3. What happened first?
  - a. People thought that Pluto was rocky and Earthlike.
  - b. Pluto was discovered.
  - c. Astronomers learned that Pluto is mostly frozen gas.
  - d. People learned that Pluto is full of ice.
4. In this story, the word **distinct** means
  - a. easily seen.
  - b. easily heard.
  - c. far away.
  - d. famous.
5. The best title for this story would be
  - a. New Telescope Makes Pluto Visible
  - b. Pluto—The Rocky Planet
  - c. Planet X Discovered
  - d. Pluto—Recent Discoveries

E11

## A.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the newspaper article below. Then, answer each question about the article by circling the letter of the best answer.

If you parked illegally at a "Time Expired" meter downtown this week but didn't get a ticket, you may have thought that this was your lucky week. However, the real reason you didn't receive a ticket was that the meter monitors were out of ticket pads.

You may have seen the meter monitors writing, but they were not writing on ticket pads. The monitors spent the past week taking a survey of downtown parking.

Next week, if you park at a meter that reads "Time Expired," you can expect a ticket. A new supply of ticket pads arrived this afternoon.

1. Why weren't parking tickets given out this week?
  - a. None of the meters read "Time Expired."
  - b. The meters were broken.
  - c. The meter monitors did not have ticket pads.
  - d. Meter monitors were busy taking a survey.
2. What will happen if you park at a "Time Expired" meter next week?
  - a. Nothing will happen.
  - b. You will probably get a ticket.
  - c. A meter monitor will ask you to move.
  - d. Your car will be towed.
3. Which happened first?
  - a. The meter monitors were out of ticket pads.
  - b. Downtown parking was surveyed.
  - c. The meter monitors could not write tickets.
  - d. A new supply of ticket pads arrived.
4. In this article, the word **illegally** means
  - a. illness.
  - b. forbidden by law.
  - c. permitted by law.
  - d. carelessly.
5. The main idea of this article is
  - a. meter monitors will no longer write tickets.
  - b. illegal parking downtown has increased.
  - c. meters were replaced downtown.
  - d. illegal parkers were lucky this week.

E12

## B.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the newspaper article below. Then, answer each question about the article by circling the letter of the best answer.

While working in her garden last week, Mrs. Olga Henson dug up seven eggs. She was curious about what kind of eggs they were, so she took them to the city zoo and inquired. The curator said they were probably snake eggs, but he would exhibit them as "mystery" eggs until they hatched.

The curator said that if the eggs were snake eggs, the baby snakes would make slits in their shells when they were ready to hatch. This morning spectators observed slits beginning to appear in the egg membranes. Before too long, a baby snake wiggled and struggled out of each shell.

1. Where were the "mystery" eggs found?
  - a. in Mrs. Henson's house
  - b. in a snake pit
  - c. in a garden
  - d. at the zoo
2. Why did Mrs. Henson bring the eggs to the curator?
  - a. She was afraid of snakes.
  - b. She didn't want spectators in her garden.
  - c. She wanted the curator to identify the eggs.
  - d. She knew the eggs were about to hatch.
3. Which happened last?
  - a. The eggs were placed on exhibit.
  - b. The baby snakes crawled out of their shells.
  - c. The eggs were taken to the zoo.
  - d. Spectators observed slits appearing in the eggs.
4. In this article, the word **observed** means
  - a. watched closely.
  - b. made comments.
  - c. made difficult to see.
  - d. seemed ridiculous.
5. The main idea of this article is
  - a. a spectator found seven snake eggs.
  - b. spectators observed chicken eggs hatch.
  - c. a curator exhibited snake eggs at a museum.
  - d. snakes hatched from eggs found in a garden.

E12

## A.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the article below. Then, answer each question about the article by circling the letter of the best answer.

City Hall has been flooded with letters concerning several of the vacant lots downtown. These sites are known among city officials as "dirty lots." Covered with high weeds, brush, and dumped garbage, these areas have become fire hazards and even harbor snakes and rats.

The passage of a stricter ordinance allows city personnel to clean up these sites. Each lot owner will be charged up to five hundred dollars for the service. Administrator Penny Malter has said that the lot owners will be given a thirty-day notice to clean up their property. If the owners don't take action, the ordinance will be enforced.

1. City Hall has been flooded with
  - a. water from a rainstorm.
  - b. thirty-day notices to clean up dirty lots.
  - c. letters concerning vacant lots.
  - d. letters stating concern about the new ordinance.
2. A stricter ordinance was passed because
  - a. owners were not paying the city for cleaning their lots.
  - b. owners were not taking care of their property.
  - c. owners were given a thirty-day notice.
  - d. the ordinance was not being enforced.
3. Which would happen last?
  - a. The owner will be given a thirty-day notice.
  - b. City personnel will clean the "dirty lot."
  - c. The owner will be charged for having city personnel clean the "dirty lot."
  - d. A stricter ordinance will be passed.
4. In this article, the word **ordinance** means
  - a. order or regulation.
  - b. orderly and clean.
  - c. discipline or enforce.
  - d. a fee the owner pays.
5. The main idea of this article is
  - a. "dirty lots" will be cleaned.
  - b. lot owners promote passage of stricter ordinance.
  - c. all owners must pay to have their lots cleaned.
  - d. many City Hall officials are given a thirty-day notice.

E13

## B.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the article below. Then, answer each question about the article by circling the letter of the best answer.

Temperatures are predicted to rise above 90° F in the next few days. It is important for you to drink plenty of fluids. Your body's air-conditioning system works by causing your sweat glands to produce perspiration. When the perspiration evaporates from the surface of your skin, your skin becomes cooler.

Perspiring causes a loss of body fluids. This loss may decrease the blood volume in the circulatory system. When there is less blood for the heart to pump to the vital organs, fainting or heatstroke may result. Drinking several glasses of water or juice will help prevent these problems.

1. Your body's air-conditioning system does not work well
  - a. if the temperature is below 90° F.
  - b. unless you drink plenty of fluids.
  - c. if you perspire.
  - d. if blood is pumped to the vital organs.
2. Your body is cooled by
  - a. a decrease in blood volume.
  - b. the heart pumping blood to the vital organs.
  - c. perspiration evaporating from the skin.
  - d. temperatures above ninety.
3. Which would happen first?
  - a. Blood volume in the circulatory system decreases.
  - b. You may have a heatstroke.
  - c. Sweat glands produce perspiration.
  - d. The volume of blood pumped to the vital organs decreases.
4. In this article, the word **vital** means
  - a. essential.
  - b. unimportant.
  - c. smaller.
  - d. unhealthy.
5. What is the main idea of this article?
  - a. Unusual temperatures are reported for this time of year.
  - b. Your body is cooled by your circulatory system.
  - c. When temperatures rise, stay inside an air-conditioned building.
  - d. Drinking liquids helps your body adjust to hot weather.

E13



## A.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the article below. Then, answer each question about the article by circling the letter of the best answer.

Today marks another flight for the space shuttle Columbia. The Columbia, the first reusable space vehicle, is almost as tall as a twenty-story building. The spacecraft weighs 4.5 million pounds when fueled and fully loaded.

The astronauts who are operating the craft on this seven-day mission plan to orbit the earth about 115 times. This flight is scheduled to last twice as long as the Columbia's previous missions.

One goal of this mission is to measure the spacecraft's resistance to extreme temperatures. Also, the astronauts are testing the ability of a fifty-foot mechanical arm to move objects into and out of the spacecraft.

1. What will be the length of this flight?  
 a. seven days  
 b. a month  
 c. three weeks  
 d. four days
2. What is the mechanical arm expected to do?  
 a. orbit the earth 115 times  
 b. transfer objects into and out of the spacecraft  
 c. resist extreme temperatures  
 d. provide fuel for the space shuttle
3. Columbia's earlier missions have been  
 a. the same length as this flight.  
 b. longer than this flight.  
 c. shorter than this flight.  
 d. cancelled due to poor weather.
4. In this article, **resistance** means  
 a. the ability to withstand.  
 b. a frictional force against.  
 c. the smallest quantity.  
 d. the ability to conceal.
5. The best title for this article would be  
 a. Spacecraft Weighs 4.5 Million Pounds.  
 b. Reusable Spacecraft Makes Another Flight.  
 c. Spacecraft Reacts to Extreme Temperatures.  
 d. Mechanical Arm Moves Material into and out of Spacecraft.

## B.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the article below. Then, answer each question about the article by circling the letter of the best answer.

When Mike Palmer was in the military service five years ago, he contacted a virus that affected his heart. After several months in the hospital, he was given a medical discharge.

Six months later, physicians warned Mike that his life expectancy would be reduced unless he had a heart transplant. Mike agreed to the procedure and received a new heart.

For the last three years, Mike has been swimming and walking many miles to regain and improve his strength. Next week he is scheduled to begin a thousand-mile bicycle marathon, riding about seventy miles a day, to raise money for the local heart association.

1. What caused Mike's heart problem?  
 a. He had a virus.  
 b. He swam and ran too far.  
 c. He had a heart transplant.  
 d. He was in a marathon.
2. **Life expectancy** means  
 a. the expectations that someone has for his or her life.  
 b. the quality of someone's life.  
 c. the number of years someone is expected to live.  
 d. a medical term related to the heart.
3. Which happened last?  
 a. Mike had a heart transplant.  
 b. Mike walked many miles to regain his strength.  
 c. Mike contacted a virus.  
 d. Mike was given a medical discharge.
4. How will Mike raise money for the local heart association?  
 a. by having a heart transplant  
 b. by riding in a bicycle marathon  
 c. by regaining and improving his strength  
 d. by receiving a medical discharge
5. How far will Mike ride each day?  
 a. fifty miles  
 b. sixty miles  
 c. seventy miles  
 d. eighty miles